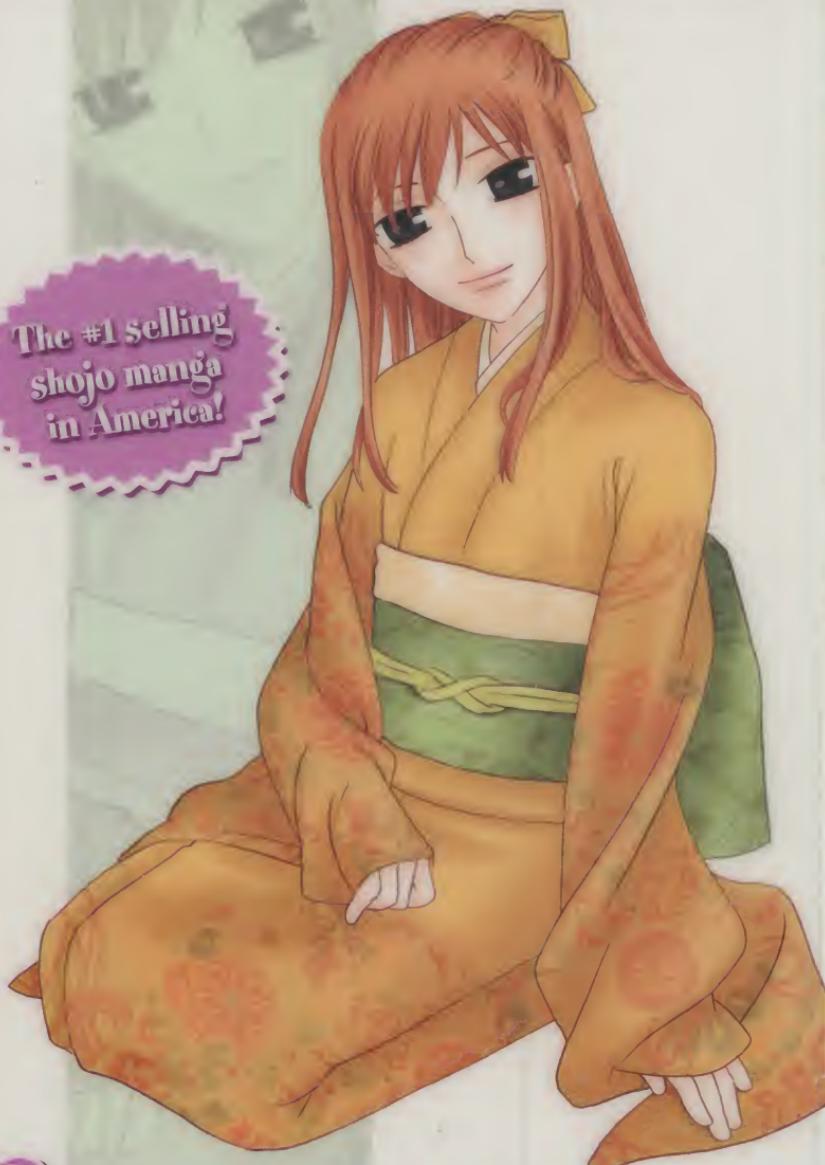


# Fruits Basket™

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The #1 selling  
shojo manga  
in America!



12

Natsuki Takaya

# Fruits Basket™

Volume 12



Natsuki Takaya

# Fruits Basket™

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# STORY SO FAR...

**Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!**





## Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

## Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



## Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

## Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



# Fruits Basket Characters



## Mabudachi Trio

### Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.



### Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



### Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.

### Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

### Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Tohru's Best Friends



## Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.

## Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.



## Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out.

## Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.



# Fruits Basket Characters

## Isuzu "Rin" Sohma, the Horse

She has the hots for Shigure...and Tohru leaves her rather cold. Rin is full of pride, and she can't stand the amount of deference the other Sohma family members give Akito.



## Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Crossdressing calms his nerves.

## Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.





## Chapter 66

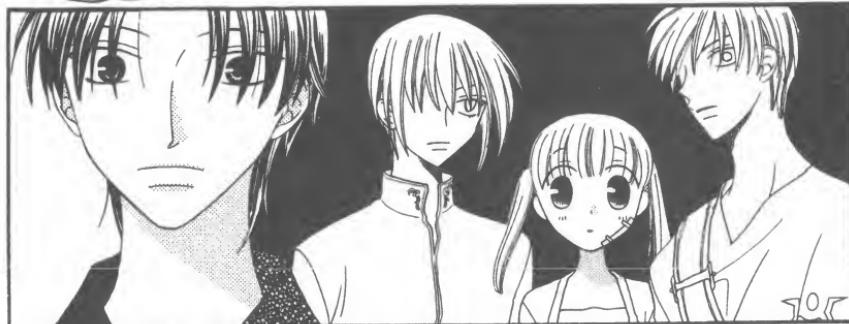


# Fruits Basket

TM

Filler  
sketch











NO...  
DEFINITELY  
NO...

No with all my  
heart...

I VOW THAT  
TONIGHT I  
SHALL FALL  
ASLEEP WHILE  
EMBRACING  
MY WOUNDED  
BROTHER TO  
MY BOSOM!!

I know  
you're  
trying  
your best,  
Aya,  
but...

NOT AT  
YOU?!!

AT KYON-  
KICHI!!

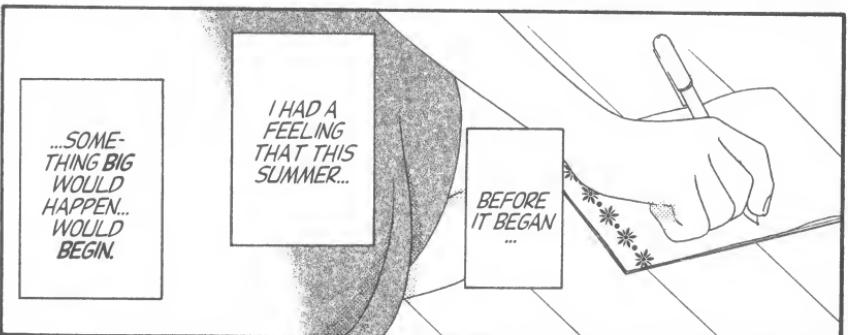
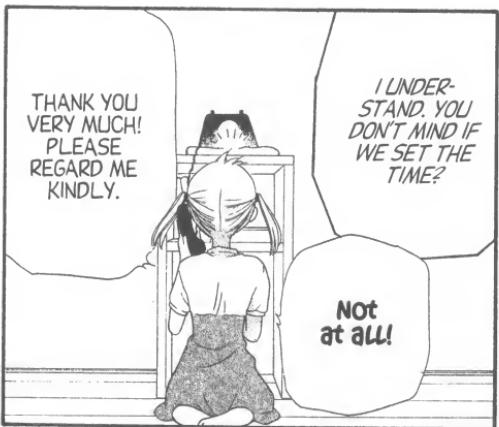
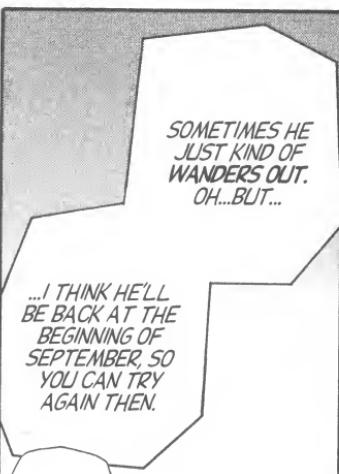
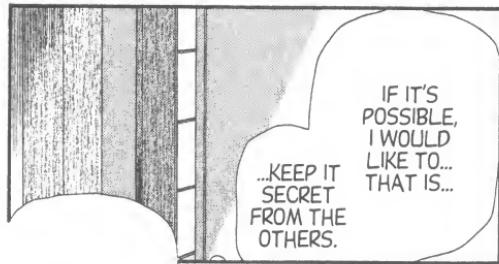
THEN YOU MUST  
STRIKE! GIVE  
IN TO YOUR  
WOUNDED HEART  
AND STRIKE,  
STRIKE, STRIKE  
WITH RECKLESS  
ABANDON!

YES.

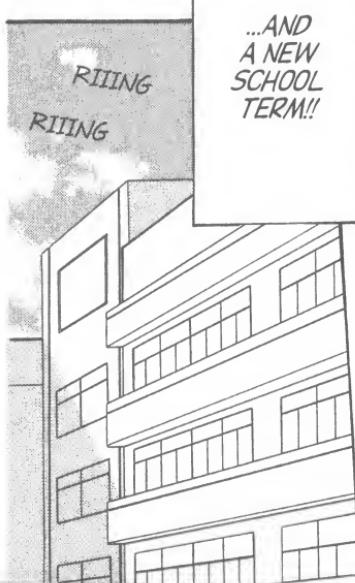
A TRIP...  
YOU SAY?

EH...?

**SQUABBLE**  
**BICKER**









THAT'S JUST  
GREAT!! YOU  
DAMN BOYS  
JUST KEEP  
GROWING AND  
GROWING  
!!

WHETHER  
SOMEONE  
GROWS OR NOT  
ISN'T REALLY  
DETERMINED  
BY GENDER...

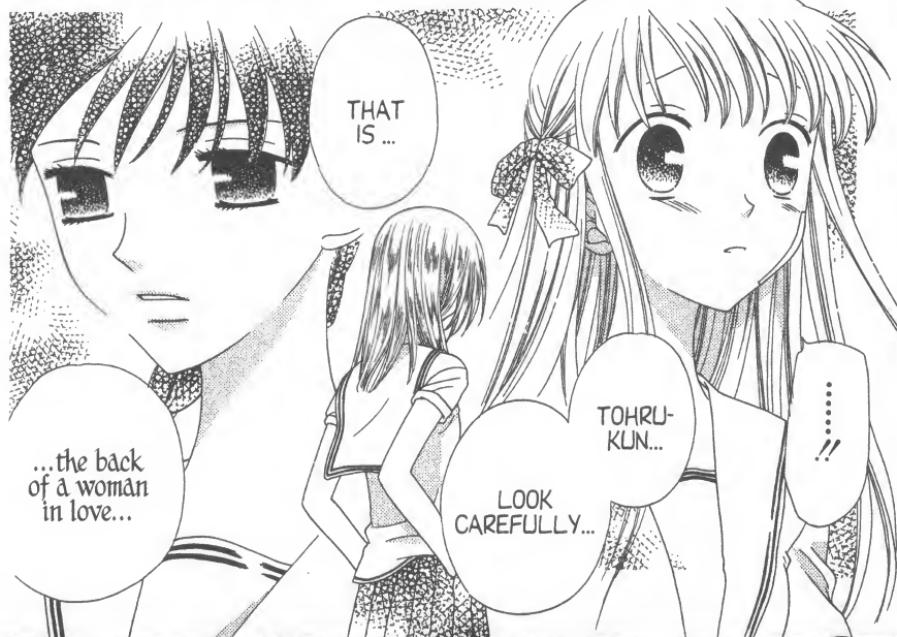
You've grown,  
plenty yourself,  
Arisa...

IT'S MY  
GOAL TO  
CRACK  
SIX FEET!

Yup.  
Back.

Ah,  
it's good  
to be  
back.

DAMMIT!  
WHAT IS THIS?  
YOU GOT  
EVEN BIGGER  
DURING THE  
BREAK!!





FOR YOU, I'LL  
LEAVE IT AT  
THAT...

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?!

Yes,  
yes,  
yes!

DID YOU  
READ MY  
MIND!?!?

MY  
MIND!!

And  
that  
laugh  
!!!

YOU CAN'T  
READ MINDS  
WITH WAVES...  
I LAUGHED  
BECAUSE I  
REMEMBERED  
SOMETHING...

ALL THOSE  
WHO WANT TO  
PARTICIPATE IN THE  
"START OF NEW  
TERM CELEBRATION-  
THE BOWLING  
TOURNAMENT" AFTER  
SCHOOL, PLEASE  
SIGN UP HERE!

TODAY?!  
BUT I  
HAVE  
WORK!

W  
H  
A  
A?

The  
winner  
gets the  
glorious  
homework-  
copying  
privilege!!

A DATE OR  
SOMETHING?

WHAT IS IT  
YOU HAVE  
TO DO?

AWW,  
THAT'S  
TOO BAD.

UM...I'M  
SORRY.

I HAVE  
SOMETHING  
I NEED TO  
DO TODAY,  
TOO...

Fruits Basket 12  
Part 1:

Hajimemashite and konnichiwa! I'm Takaya. Are you doing well? I have a cold with a slight fever, so I have even less time than usual. Groooan...

If you please. This is Furuba volume 12. 12... That's amazing! Ah, for those of you who are reading for the first time starting with 12, I wonder if you thought that Ritsu, who's on the cover, was a woman?

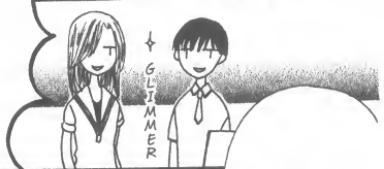
I understand that there were some people who thought Aaya on volume 9 was a woman, so I think it's quite likely. Somehow, I didn't hesitate to let him wear a *furisode*\*. So, without further ado...

Let's continue volume 12!

\*formal long-sleeved kimono worn by unmarried women



NO, NO! THERE  
MUST BE A  
MISUNDERSTANDING!  
NO, OF COURSE NOT!  
I REALLY HAVE  
SOMETHING TO DO!



IT  
REALLY  
ISN'T!!

Tohru-kun...  
It's a date,  
isn't it...?

NO, NO,  
IT'S REALLY  
SOMETHING  
ELSE... REALLY!



WHERE IS HE, ANYWAYS?

IT'S TRUE! IT'S TOO BAD PRINCE CHARMING WASN'T HERE TO SEE IT.

YOU'RE ADORABLE WHEN YOU PANIC, TOHRU... WE GOT CARRIED AWAY...

I'm sorry...

I BROKE A SWEAT...IT SEEMS.

Isn't he with the student council?

YUKI!

UM...THIS IS A SOUVENIR FROM OUR SUMMER.

WON'T YOU ACCEPT IT...?

That's right!  
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, YUKI-KUN!!

I'M SORRY.  
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO GIVE YOU IN RETURN...

WE DON'T MIND.

Oh my!!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Huh?

AH...!

KINOSHITA-SAN?

UM...  
MINA-  
GAWA-  
SENPAI?

BECAUSE YOUR SMILING FACE IS BETTER THAN ANY GIFT! LIKE A BIRD, IT SPREADS ITS WHITE WINGS, SOARING TO GREAT HEIGHTS IN THE BLUE SKY THAT IS MY HEART. THOSE LOVELY FEATHERS...



IT'S NO WONDER YOU'RE SO POPULAR. WOW...

SUMMER VACATION?  
I WENT TO THE BEACH...

THAT SOUNDS WONDERFUL!!

SIGH...

The beach?!

MORE IMPORTANTLY,  
SOHMA-SENPAI!!!

MORE  
IMPORTANTLY  
???

YEAH,  
MINE  
TOO...

FORGIVE ME.  
MY MIND WAS  
SUDDENLY  
OVERTAKEN  
BY POETRY!

Oh!

WHAT DID  
YOU DO FOR  
YOUR SUMMER  
VACATION?!!



**YUN-  
YUN  
?!!**

YUN-YUN.

YOU CAN  
SHARE  
YOUR  
CANDY  
WITH ME  
LATER,  
'KAY?

YOU SAW  
RIGHT  
THROUGH  
ME, DIDN'T  
YOU?

YOU SHOW UP  
ALL OF A SUDDEN  
AND, INSTEAD OF  
ADDRESSING YUKI  
BY HIS PROPER  
NAME, YOU CALL  
HIM YU-YU-YU-!!

AH...OH NO.  
I'M SCARED

OR MAYBE  
YOU'RE JUST  
TRYING TO  
MAKE US  
JEALOUS?!

WH--WH--WH--  
WH-WHAT  
THE HELL IS  
THIS?! WHO  
DO YOU THINK  
YOU ARE?!

UM...

DON'T  
YOU KNOW  
IT ANNOYS  
HIM TO BE  
CALLED  
STRANGE  
THINGS?!









GRR!

RIVA-

# YOUR FIRST LOVE ?!

WHO ARE YOU CALLING "CHIBI," YOU AMOEBA?! DON'T BE SO CRUDE!!

OOH?! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT TO YOUR SENPAI, CHIBI-SUKE!!

Tee hee!

THEY'RE SO CHILDISH!

You want a piece of me?

I'm not chibi!!!

GOOD LUCK, CHIBI-SUKE\*. YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN IN THIS ONE!

CAN YOU PLEASE NOT PICK FIGHTS LIKE A DRUNK PERSON?

CHOP!

CHOP

IF THERE ARE THINGS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK, 'KAY?  
♥

HUH...? YOU'RE A MEMBER, TOO!?

I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF!

I'M KIMI TOLIDOU. I'M A SECRETARY, LIKE NAOHITO.  
♥

Oh!

\*Chibi: runt, squirt, small person; -suke: masculine name ending.

SHUT UP!  
HE DOESN'T  
NEED TO  
KNOW THAT!!

KIMI MAY  
BE ACTING  
LIKE THIS,  
BUT REALLY,  
SHE'S JUST--

YUN-YUN,  
YOU CAN  
RELAX!

KIMI WILL  
DO HER  
BEST FOR  
YUN-YUN!

A  
A  
A  
H!

O...  
okay...

Ouchie!  
That  
really  
hurts!

I'm  
not  
Chibi-  
!!

I've avenged  
you, Chibi-  
chan! +

LEADER!

LET'S HEAR  
A WORD  
FROM OUR  
LEADER.

IS THIS EVEN  
GOING TO BE  
POSSIBLE  
FOR ME...?

I'M ALREADY  
STARTING TO  
REGRET THIS...

I KNOW THESE  
PEOPLE ARE  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
PRETTY BRIGHT,  
BUT THEY'RE  
COMING OFF AS  
AWFULLY DIM  
SO FAR.

I...THINK  
THERE ARE  
MANY WAYS  
IN WHICH...

...I FALL  
SHORT AS  
PRESIDENT.

BUT I  
WON'T STOP  
TRYING.

SO EVERY-  
ONE...

...PLEASE  
LEND ME...

...YOUR  
STRENGTH.

I SWEARED TO  
MYSELF...

...THAT I  
WOULDN'T  
RUN AWAY  
ANYMORE.

THAT'S  
RIGHT.

I'M YUKI  
SOHMA...

...YOUR NEW  
STUDENT  
BODY  
PRESIDENT.

THE WORK OF  
THE STUDENT  
COUNCIL...WON'T  
MOVE FORWARD  
UNLESS WE ALL  
WORK TOGETHER...  
I THINK.

I SWEARED ON  
THAT DAY...





THANK YOU  
VERY MUCH FOR  
LISTENING TO MY  
UNREASONABLE  
REQUEST...







...MY GRAND-FATHER WAS FINALLY ABLE TO GO "OUTSIDE."

BUT... I THINK IT MAY HAVE BEEN BETTER THIS WAY.

IN THE END...

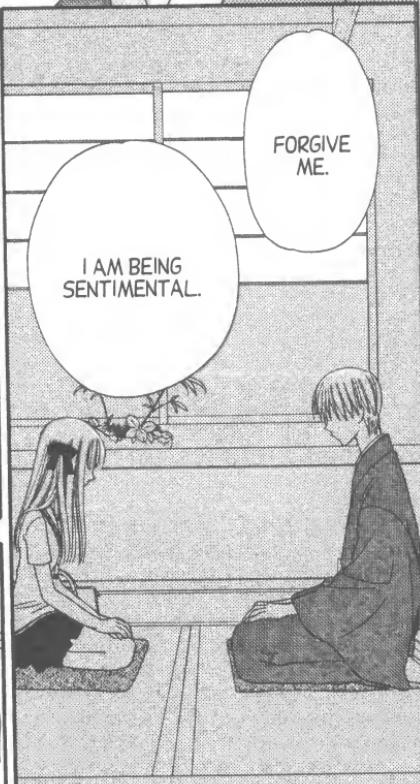


BUT KYO-KUN IS...ALIVE NOW...

BUT...



...AND HE'S LIVING... "OUTSIDE."



I AM BEING SENTIMENTAL.

FORGIVE ME.

IS IT TRUE...



...THAT SOON HE WILL BE CONFINED?



SHISHOU-SAN...

SHISHOU-SAN, DO YOU KNOW...?

DO YOU KNOW...

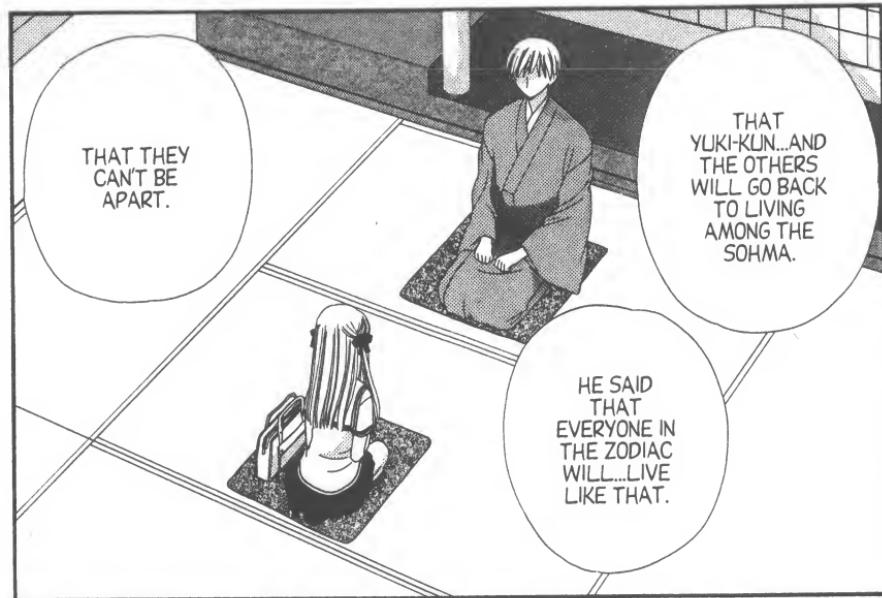


DO YOU KNOW HOW TO BREAK IT?

MORE IMPORTANTLY...

...ABOUT THE SOHMA CURSE?

# Chapter 67





"STAY  
OUT OF  
IT."

THAT  
AKITO-SAN IS  
EVERYONE'S...

...MASTER.

...I WANT TO  
BREAK THE  
CURSE.

...I THINK  
THAT...

"STOP  
TRYING..."

...TO DESTROY  
OUR HAPPINESS."

THE FUTURE  
THAT AKITO-  
SAN TOLD  
ME ABOUT...

...IF IT'S  
TRUE...

IT MAY BE  
SELFISH OF ME  
TO THINK THAT...  
ESPECIALLY  
WHEN I'M  
RELYING ON YOU,  
SHISHOU-SAN...

IF YOU KNOW  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT THE  
CURSE, PLEASE...  
WOULD YOU  
PLEASE  
TELL ME?

...BUT I JUST  
COULDNT ASK  
THE OTHERS.  
PLEASE...

...IF IT'S  
BECAUSE OF  
THE CURSE...

WHY MUST  
YOU GO SO  
FAR?

YOU...

YOU HAVE  
ALREADY  
DONE FAR  
MORE THAN  
ENOUGH...

SO MANY  
THINGS FOR  
ALL OF US.

SHI-  
SHOU  
...

...SAN?

...DO YOU  
BOW YOUR  
HEAD?

I SWEAR IT.  
PLEASE.

WHY...

I'LL NEVER...  
NEVER  
CAUSE YOU  
ANY MORE  
TROUBLE.



THE FUTURE  
YOU DESCRIBE,  
WITH KYO  
CONFINED...

...AND  
ALL OF THE  
ZODIAC LIVING  
TOGETHER IN  
ISOLATION... IS  
QUITE LIKELY.

...BUT...

...I DO  
NOT KNOW  
CLEARLY  
MYSELF.

IN ANSWER  
TO YOUR  
QUESTION  
ABOUT THE  
CURSE AND  
HOW TO  
BREAK IT...

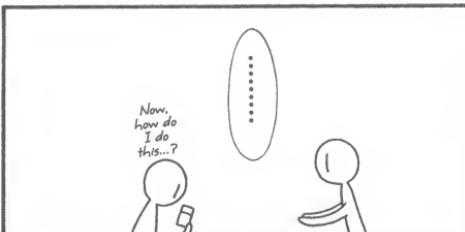


THE SAD  
THING IS...

...THAT NONE  
OF THEM HAS A  
STRONG ENOUGH  
WILL TO  
OPPOSE AKITO.

OF  
COURSE...

...I DO NOT  
INTEND TO LET  
SUCH A FUTURE  
HAPPEN WITHOUT  
FIGHTING IT.



BUT TO THE  
MEMBERS OF  
THE ZODIAC,  
AKITO IS  
SPECIAL

A GODLIKE  
BEING, A  
BEING TO BE  
FEARED AND  
RESPECTED.

WEAK OR  
STRONG, HE  
AFFECTS  
THEM ALL  
THE SAME.

WORDS THAT  
FROM ANY  
OTHER MOUTH  
WOULD MAKE  
THEM FLINCH...

...WHEN SAID BY  
AKITO, CAUSE  
SUCH PAIN IN  
THEIR HEARTS  
THAT IT'S AS IF  
THEIR BODIES  
ARE BEING TORN  
APART.

TOHRU-  
SAN...

I HAVE...

...NEVER BEEN  
AFRAID OF  
AKITO.

HE IS  
JUST LIKE  
A SMALL  
CHILD.

HE ONLY  
KNOWS HOW  
TO SCREAM  
AND CRY AS IF  
HE'S ON FIRE.

A  
FRAGILE...

...CRANKY  
CHILD.





IT MIGHT  
NOT EVEN BE  
POSSIBLE TO  
BREAK IT.

...I TRULY  
WOULD  
DESERVE  
TO BE  
PUNISHED.

TO BREAK  
A SACRED  
BOND...



I KEEP USING THIS GIRL, BUT WHAT IS IT EXACTLY THAT I WANT?

WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?

WHATEVER HAPPENS, WE SOHMA HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT OURSELVES.

BECAUSE WE CAN DO NOTHING TO CHANGE THINGS, WE HAVE SUNK INTO A DARK WORLD.

WE ARE POWERLESS.

SHISHOU-SAN?!

I'M BEING VERY SELFISH.

OH, NO!  
REALLY,  
THAT'S--!

...FOR BEING CONCERNED... ABOUT KYO.

AND I THANK YOU...

TO BE HONEST...

...I DIDN'T WANT HER TO KNOW...

...ABOUT HIM BEING CONFINED.

"BUT..."

...IT'S JUST TOO PITIFUL, ISN'T IT?!



HE MIGHT GROW TO BE TALLER THAN YOU, SHISHOU-SAN!

I WOULD...



...GETTING STRONGER AND STRONGER?!

UM... IS KYO-KUN...



...LIKE TO SEE THAT!

AH...!



...AND I GET THE FEELING HIS HANDS HAVE GOTTEN BIGGER.



HE'S GOTTEN TALLER...









...AND  
THAT  
HE'LL  
FORM  
A NEW  
BOND.

...I PRAY  
THAT THE  
TIME HE  
SPENDS  
WITH YOU...  
...WILL  
BECOME  
HIS  
SUPPORT...



OOOHHH,  
I really,  
REALLY  
missed  
YOOOU!!

KYOOOO...

...Kun!!  
♥

"VALUE THE  
TIME YOU  
HAVE..."

"...IN THAT  
HOUSE."

KYO-KUN!

"VALUE  
IT."

WHY DO YOU  
ONLY COME  
TO THE DOJO  
THREE TIMES  
A WEEK?!

You should  
come every  
day!!

WE JUST  
SAW EACH  
OTHER.

NO WE  
DIDN'T! WE  
HAVEN'T  
SEEN EACH  
OTHER AT  
ALL!

Mitchan



Just because the cover is Ritchan (laugh). His honey. Her name is Mitsuru, but I haven't decided on a surname. When she first saw him, she was slightly attracted to Shigure, but now she strongly, deeply regrets that. Now she thinks he's evil...

Shigure makes her go to all that trouble to come get his manuscripts just to kill time. He really is evil!

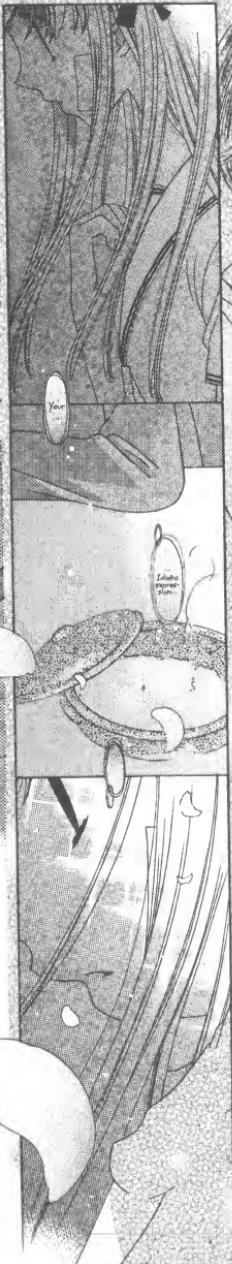
There are some heartwarming (?) episodes left between her and Ritchan, but now that the main story has progressed so far, there might not be time to draw them...









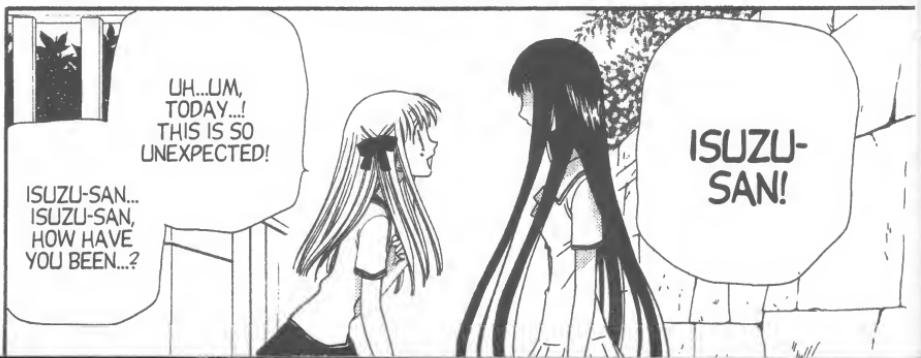


FOR ME  
TO...

...BE  
MYSELF...

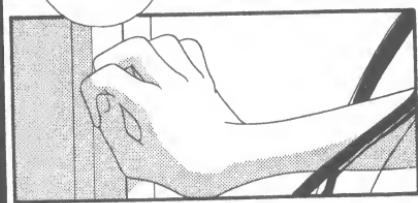
"HONDA-  
SAN..."

...YOU  
SHOULD  
BE YOUR-  
SELF."











IN...IN T-T-TOWN!! IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN! IT WAS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN, REALLY!!!

I WONDER IF I COULD MEET HER IF I WENT TO HER SCHOOL?

That was the place, yup!

RATTLE RATTLE

W-we're home...

?

IT WAS A SECRET THAT I WENT TO SHISHOU-SAN'S HOUSE !!!



NO, IT'S  
NOTHING  
LIKE THAT!!

HA HA HA!  
IT MUST BE  
KAGURA.

POPULAR  
MEN HAVE  
IT ROUGH.

Quite the ladies  
man, now, aren't  
you?

SHEESH.

Sigh...

A  
DATE?

THAT HAS  
NOTHING TO  
DO WITH  
THIS!

TH-

Kyo-  
kun,  
let her  
go.

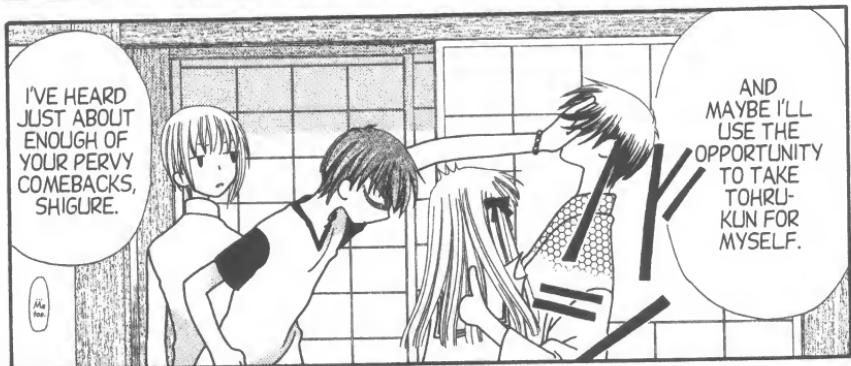
ANYWAY...

I'M  
APPALLED.

SNAP

YOU HAVE  
TIME TO GO  
ON DATES...

...BUT YOU DON'T  
HAVE TIME TO  
PICK UP TOHRU  
FROM WORK?





THE GIFT  
THAT POURS  
OUT...



YOU  
DON'T SEE  
IT YOUR-  
SELF...

...FROM YOUR  
HEART.



## Chapter 68



THE FIRST  
REASON  
I STARTED  
LIKING YOU,  
KYO-KUN.

KYO-  
KUUUN!



THE ONLY  
REASON  
WE'RE OUT  
TOGETHER  
TODAY...

BUT,  
KYO-  
KUN...

...IS  
BECAUSE  
I HALF-  
THREATENED  
HIM.

"IF YOU GO ON  
A DATE WITH  
ME, I'LL LISTEN  
TO WHAT YOU  
HAVE TO SAY!"

WE NEVER  
GET TO GO  
OUT, SO TRY  
TO ACT A  
LITTLE MORE  
CHEERFUL!

YOU'RE NOT  
EXCITED  
ENOUGH!

YOU'RE TOO  
EXCITED.

'CUZ IF  
YOU DID,  
THERE'S NO  
ONE WHO  
WOULD...

NO, I'M  
NOT.

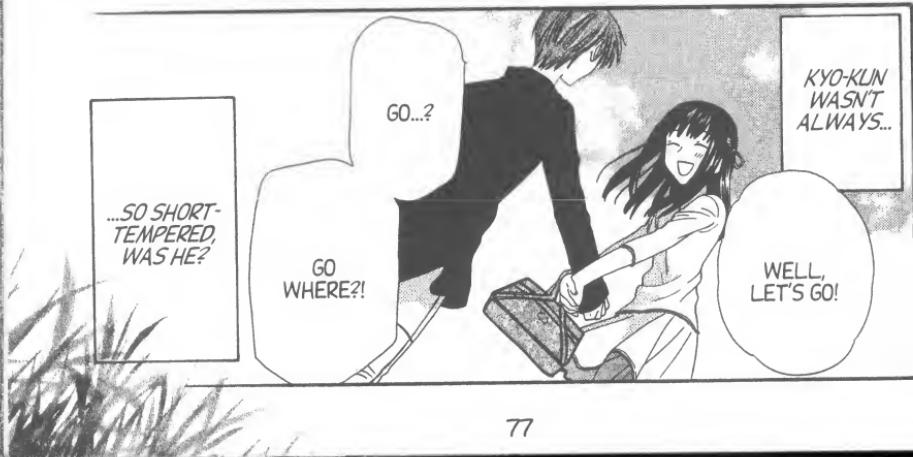
YOU STILL  
DON'T WATCH  
TV OR ANY-  
THING, DO  
YOU?

...GET  
MAD AT  
YOU ANY-  
MORE.

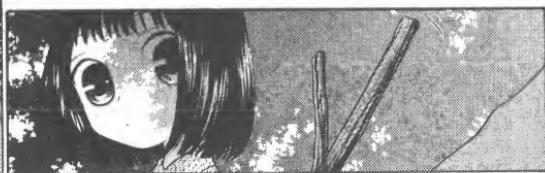
YEAH,  
SORT OF.

I THOUGHT  
WE'D START  
WITH A MOVIE  
OR SOMETHING,  
BUT YOU'RE NOT  
INTERESTED IN  
MOVIES.

Right,  
Kyo-  
kun?









Motoko  
Minagawa



Motoko "Yuki is my life!" Minagawa-san. I predicted this, but when she first showed up, I got a lot of letters from people saying they hated her. One of my favorite letters said, "She's the rival, so why do you draw her so pretty?" Of course, I enjoy drawing Motoko. Well, basically, I enjoy drawing girls (laugh). So, you go, Motoko!





...SAW  
YOUR TRUE  
FORM.

...THE  
PLACE  
I FIRST...

...DIDN'T  
WANT  
TO,  
KYO-  
KUN...

YOU...

"HEY,  
JUST FOR A  
LITTLE!"

BUT I...

JUST FOR  
A LITTLE  
BIT...

...FORCED  
YOU.

...LET ME  
WEAR THOSE  
BEADS."





I THOUGHT  
I WAS THE  
WORST  
PERSON  
ON EARTH.

WHEN I  
WAS YOUNG...  
MY PARENTS  
OFTEN FOUGHT  
BECAUSE OF ME.

WHENEVER  
I SAW MAMA  
CRYING BY HER-  
SELF AFTER-  
WARDS...

...IT  
MADE ME  
REALLY  
SAD.

BACK  
THEN...

...I HATED  
MYSELF  
SO MUCH, I  
COULDN'T  
STAND IT.

I WAS THE  
ONE WHO  
STARTED  
DISTANCING  
HERSELF  
FIRST.

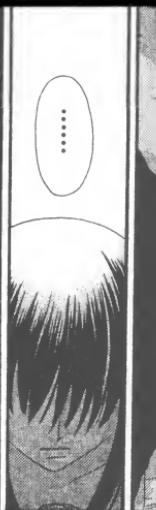
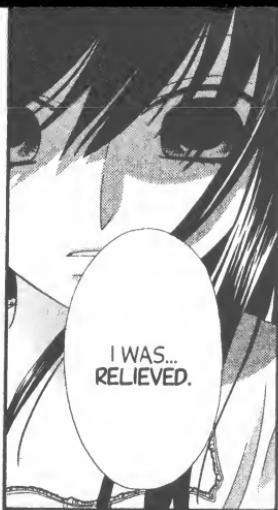
KYO-  
KUN...

YOU  
KNOW,  
I...

...I WAS  
SAD THAT  
I WAS BORN...

AFTER  
ALL...

...POS-  
SESSED BY  
A VENGEFUL  
SPIRIT.



...LOOKING  
DOWN ON YOU,  
KYO-KUN.

THAT'S  
WHY...

...I WAS  
WITH YOU.

I WASN'T  
PITIED AND  
I WASN'T  
OSTRACIZED.

.../  
I WASN'T  
SO BAD  
AFTER  
ALL.

NOT LIKE  
THIS BOY...

YES...

BECAUSE  
I REALIZED  
I COULD FEEL  
GOOD ABOUT  
MYSELF.



I WAS  
ALWAYS...

...

...DIRTY.

IT'S  
TERRIBLE,  
ISN'T IT?

I FEEL  
SO...

...  
SEEMED  
DIRTY.

...I WAS  
AFRAID  
WITH ALL  
MY HEART.  
THAT PART  
OF ME...

THAT  
DAY...



...I RAN  
AWAY  
FROM  
YOU...

...TO FORGET  
IT EVER  
HAPPENED.

I WANTED  
YOU...

I HATED IT.  
I WANTED  
TO DO IT  
OVER AGAIN.

IT SEEMED  
SO DIRTY I  
COULDN'T  
STAND IT.

I DREAMED OF  
BECOMING A  
"CLEAN ME" WHO  
COULD ACCEPT  
"KYO-KUN THE  
MONSTER."



...THEN THE  
ME THAT RAN  
AWAY-THE  
DIRTY ME...

I DIDN'T EVEN  
REALIZE HOW  
DIRTY THAT  
THOUGHT  
ITSELF WAS.

THAT'S  
WHAT I  
BELIEVED.

...WOULD  
BE WASHED  
AWAY.

I THOUGHT  
THAT IF I  
COULD LIKE  
YOU, KYO-  
KUN...

IF I COULD  
SHORTEN THE  
DISTANCE  
BETWEEN  
US...

IT  
WAS...

...AND  
IF YOU  
WOULD  
LIKE ME  
BACK...

...A  
FORCED  
LOVE.



...I WAS  
ONLY CHASING  
AFTER YOU FOR  
MYSELF.

I NEVER  
THOUGHT  
ABOUT THE  
FEELINGS I  
MUST HAVE  
HURT AFTER  
I DESERTED  
YOU, KYO-  
KUN.

BUT  
THEN...

...WHEN I  
SAW HER  
CHASING  
AFTER  
YOU...

I  
REALIZED

...JUST  
HOW  
FOOLISH  
I WAS.

I WAS  
BLIND TO  
YOUR PAIN,  
KYO-KUN.

THE  
WHOLE  
TIME...

I NEVER  
THOUGHT  
OF YOUR  
NEEDS.

YES,  
IN THE  
END...

...IT WAS  
ALL ABOUT  
MYSELF.

THE  
WHOLE  
TIME...

I'M SORRY,  
KYO-KUN.

I'M  
SORRY...

YOU...

EVEN  
THOUGH,  
BEING  
DESERTED...

...THERE'S  
NO WAY YOU  
WOULDN'T  
HAVE BEEN  
SAD

I'M  
SORRY...

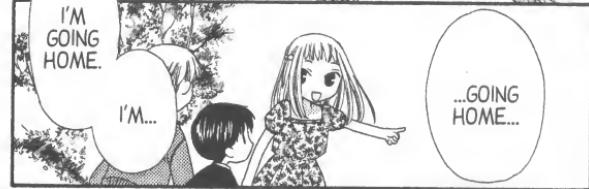
...ON MY  
BEHALF.

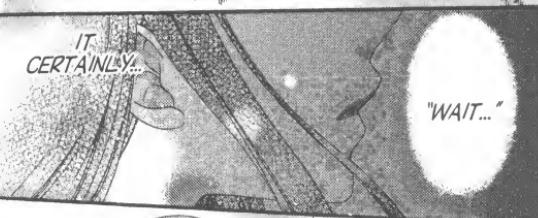
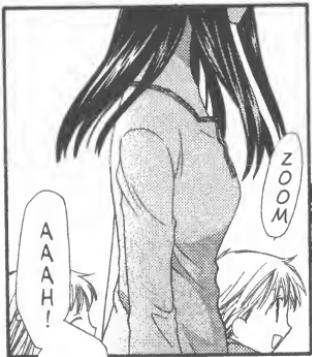
I KNOW  
THIS IS  
PAINFUL  
FOR YOU.

YOU DON'T  
NEED TO  
SAY THESE  
THINGS...









THERE  
WAS A  
PART OF  
ME...

KYO-  
CHAN!

KYO-  
CHAN...!

...THAT  
CHASED  
AFTER HIM  
BECAUSE...

KYO-  
CHAN...

KYO-  
CHAN...

...!  
WANTED  
TO...

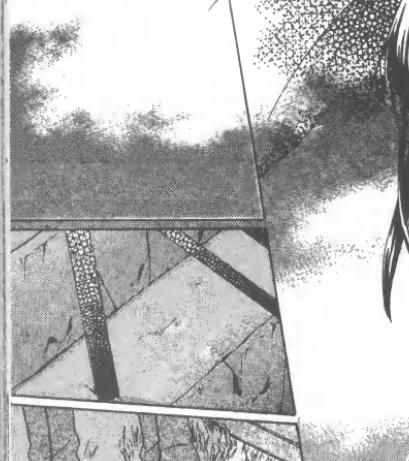
KYO-  
CHAN...

I DO  
LOVE  
YOU...



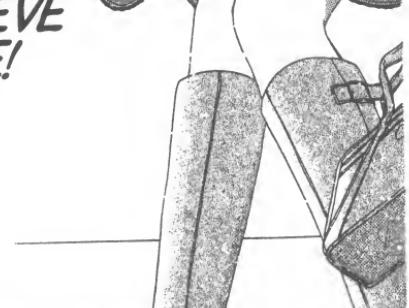
I LOVE  
YOU!

BELIEVE  
ME.



BELIEVE  
ME!

BELIEVE  
ME.



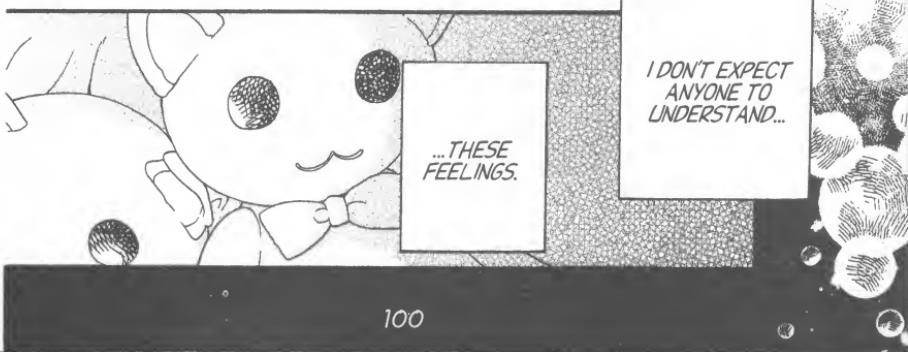




IT'S NOTHING.  
I'M...GOING  
TO BED.



YOU POOR  
THING!





AT LEAST  
UNTIL...

...THIS  
NIGHT IS  
OVER.

BE MINE  
ALONE...

YOU  
STAYED BY  
ME UNTIL  
I STOPPED  
CRYING.

JUST  
YOU,  
KYO-  
KUN.

Filler  
Sketch



Cat  
Kyon  
Chibi

In case you're wondering why he was drawing fried eggs, it's because that's what he had for breakfast.





## Chapter 69

Filler  
Sketch



It's Rin. Drawing her is fun, but inking her in is too hard!



I WONDERED...

IF THAT  
WAS ALL  
SHE WAS  
GOING  
TO DO...

...THEN  
WHY...



...DID SHE  
BOther TO  
COME OVER  
IN THE FIRST  
PLACE?

"I'M GOING  
HOME."

"I'VE HAD  
ENOUGH."

"I'M GOING  
HOME."

GRANDPA IS  
BEDRIDDEN?!

BUT...

WHAT?!



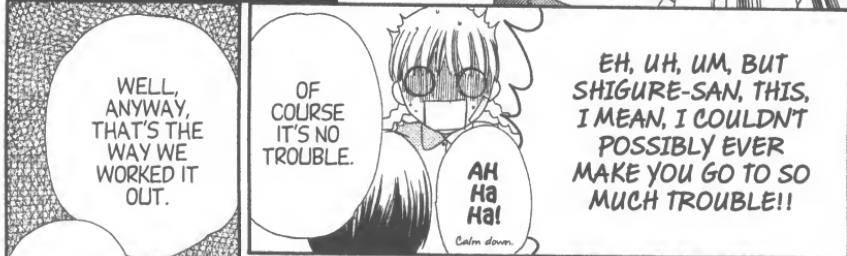


Mio Yamagishi



Well, I drew Motoko, so let's do Mio while I'm at it (laugh). Mio is the lowest-ranking and most docile member of the Prince Yuki Club, but I think she may also be the shyest. Kind of like, "When I'm gonna do it, I'm gonna do it, even if I have to drag others down!" (Do what?) But really...I think I wrote this before, but when Mio becomes the president of Pri-Yuki, Yuki will have already graduated! ...What will she do? (laugh)









HAVE YOU  
SPOKEN TO  
THEM ABOUT  
THE PARENT-  
TEACHER  
CONFERENCE,  
YUKI-KUN?



IT'S NOT  
THAT I DON'T  
WANT TO.

I'M JUST  
LOST AS  
TO...

...WHAT  
MY TOP  
PRIORITY  
SHOULD  
BE.



YOUR  
GRANDPA  
THREW HIS  
BACK OUT?

THINGS  
TO PUT IN  
ORDER...

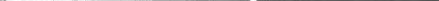
...THINGS  
I OUGHT  
TO SETTLE,  
THINGS  
I SHOULD  
REALIZE...

...STARTING  
NOW.

THERE ARE  
STILL SOME  
PROBLEMS...

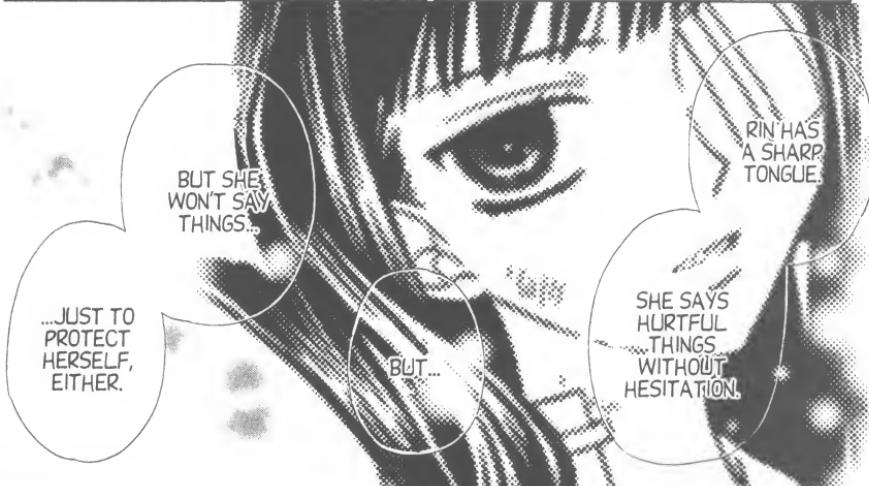
...I'M HOLDING  
OFF ON  
ADDRESSING.



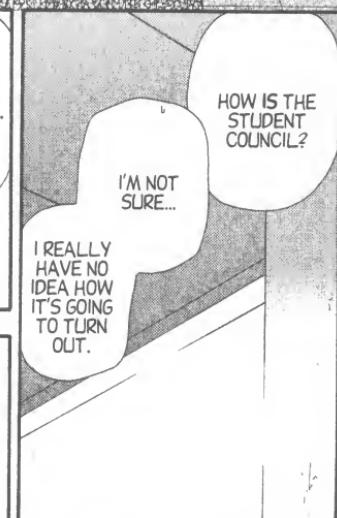
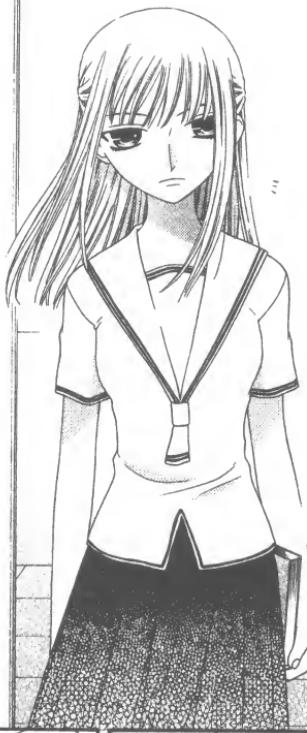


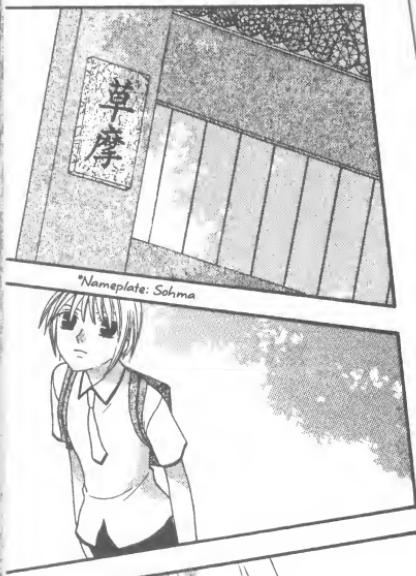
LET'S HAVE SOME JUICE! LET'S GO BUY SOME!











IF YOU HAD  
LET US KNOW  
YOU WERE COMING,  
MADAME WOULDN'T  
HAVE GONE OUT.

SHE SAID  
SHE'D BE  
BACK THIS  
EVENING.

OH...

JUST MAKE  
SURE SHE  
GETS THAT.

I'LL BE  
IN TOUCH  
LATER.

IT TOOK  
A LOT OF  
ENERGY FOR  
ME TO DRAG  
MYSELF  
HERE...

*Paper: Parent-Teacher Conference Notice*

HIS CONDITION  
SEEMS TO  
HAVE IMPROVED  
RECENTLY.

YOU WON'T  
BE WAITING  
FOR HER?

...BUT, AS  
USUAL,  
SHE'S  
NOT EVEN  
HOME.

IT SEEMS  
THE HEAD OF  
THE FAMILY  
IS OUT AS  
WELL...

WHERE'S  
AKITO?

HERE.









TO FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT SOMEONE...

...WITH SUCH CONVICTION...

I'M FINE.  
CARING FOR SOMEONE...

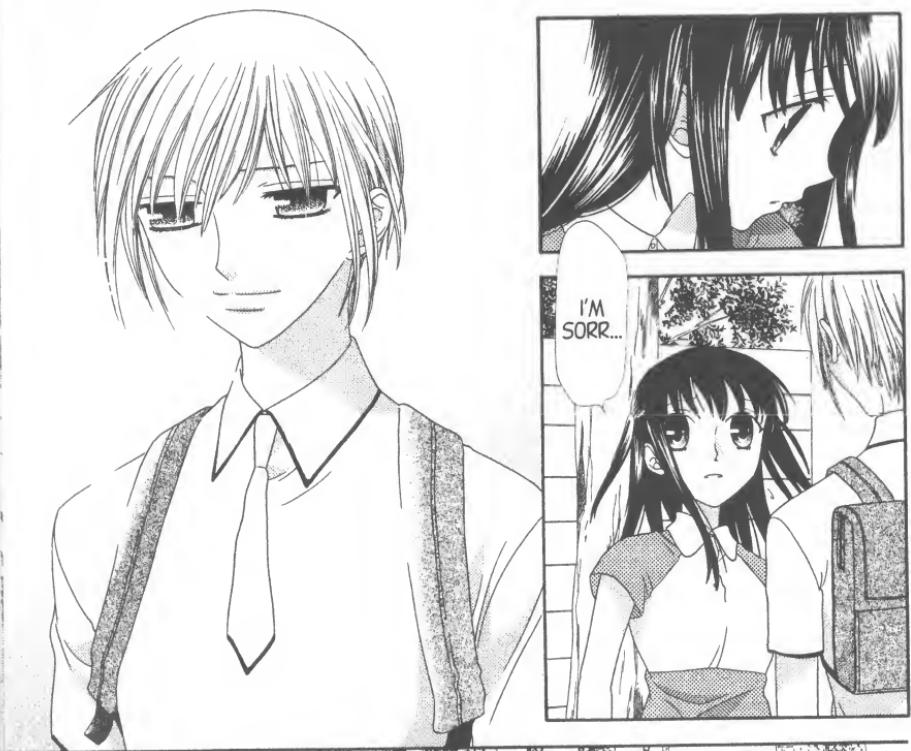
BUT I'M FINE.

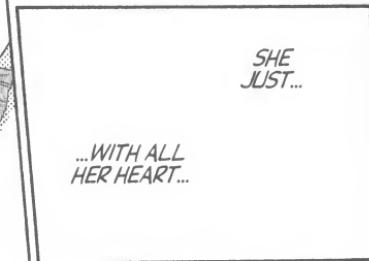
...ISN'T BASED ON LOGIC.

...IT'S ALL OVER.

YOU CAN'T REALLY RATIONALIZE EMOTIONS.

ONCE I THINK  
"I LIKE HIM"...





RIN...  
WHAT...

...ARE YOU  
DOING?

SO  
CLOSE  
TO MY  
HOUSE?

RIN... DID  
YOU MEAN  
THE THINGS  
YOU SAID...

...WHEN  
YOU  
BROKE  
UP WITH  
HARU?

WHAT ARE  
YOU TRYING  
TO DO?

RIN, WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING? WHY  
ARE YOU  
ALONE?

WAI!!  
RIN!

WAIT!!  
LISTEN  
TO ME!!

WHEN I WAS  
STILL IN  
THAT ROOM...

...YOU AND  
HARU WOULD  
COME VISIT  
ME TOGETHER,  
RIGHT?

AND  
YOU WOULD  
ALWAYS SAY,  
"I'M GOING  
HOME."

"I'VE HAD  
ENOUGH."

I HEARD  
FROM  
HARU...

...THAT YOU  
TWO WERE  
GOING OUT.

RIN... I...

THERE'S  
SOMETHING...  
I REMEMBERED  
RECENTLY.

BUT...

...IT WAS RIGHT  
BEFORE SOMEONE  
WOULD COME TO  
CHECK ON ME.

...NOW THAT  
I THINK ABOUT  
IT, EVERY TIME  
YOU SAID THAT  
AND LEFT...

...IT  
SEEMED  
LIKE...



RIN, YOU WERE...

...BUT HARU  
WOULD COME  
TO SEE ME,  
ANYWAY.

THAT WAS  
DEFINITELY IT.



BACK THEN,  
AKITO WOULDN'T  
HAVE ALLOWED  
ANYONE IN MY  
ROOM...



...PROTECTING  
HIM, WEREN'T  
YOU?

...SO THAT  
HARU WOULDN'T  
GET IN TROUBLE.

YOU KEPT  
GUARD SO THAT  
IF ANYONE WAS  
COMING DOWN  
THE HALL...

...YOU COULD  
STALL  
THEM...



"RIN..."

"I'VE HAD  
ENOUGH.  
I'M GOING  
HOME."



...TO PROTECT  
HARU FROM  
SOMETHING,  
AREN'T YOU?

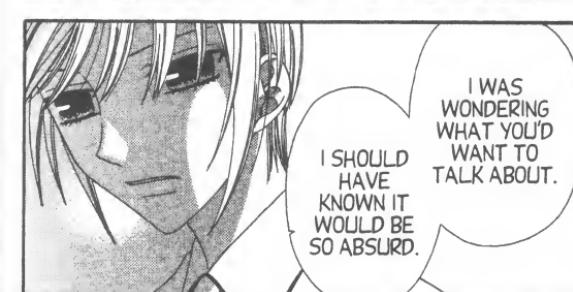
BUT  
EVEN  
NOW...

EVEN  
NOW, RIN...  
...YOU'RE  
TRYING...



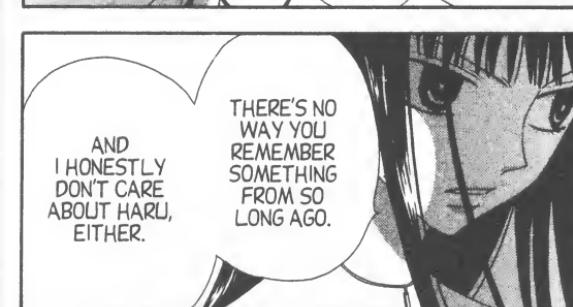
...WON'T SAY  
THINGS TO  
PROTECT  
HERSELF,  
EITHER."

BACK  
THEN...



I SHOULD  
HAVE  
KNOWN IT  
WOULD BE  
SO ABSURD.

I WAS  
WONDERING  
WHAT YOU'D  
WANT TO  
TALK ABOUT.



AND  
I HONESTLY  
DON'T CARE  
ABOUT HARU,  
EITHER.

THERE'S NO  
WAY YOU  
REMEMBER  
SOMETHING  
FROM SO  
LONG AGO.



...I NEVER  
REALIZED.



"WANT  
TO COME  
STAY..."

"ISN'T IT  
A GOOD  
THING..."

"...THAT YOU  
CAN LIVE  
AT SENSEI'S  
HOUSE?"

"HUH...?  
HARU, DID  
YOU ALWAYS  
CALL SHIGURE  
'SENSEI'?

AND IDIOT  
THAT HE IS,  
HARU'S KEPT  
HIS PROMISE.

"...AT MY  
HOUSE?"

"BECAUSE  
SENSEI'S A  
SENSEI."

"YUP."

"...GURE-NII  
STUPIDLY  
SAID, 'I WILL IF  
YOU CALL ME  
SENSEI.'

"AT THE  
TIME..."



BUT THE  
BIGGEST  
IDIOT...

...IS  
YOU.



YOU  
PIECE  
OF  
SHIT!!

SO WHY DON'T  
YOU GO BACK  
TO SCHOOL,  
OR WHATEVER  
IT IS IDIOTS  
LIKE YOU DO...

...AND  
DON'T EVER  
BOther ME  
AGAIN?!

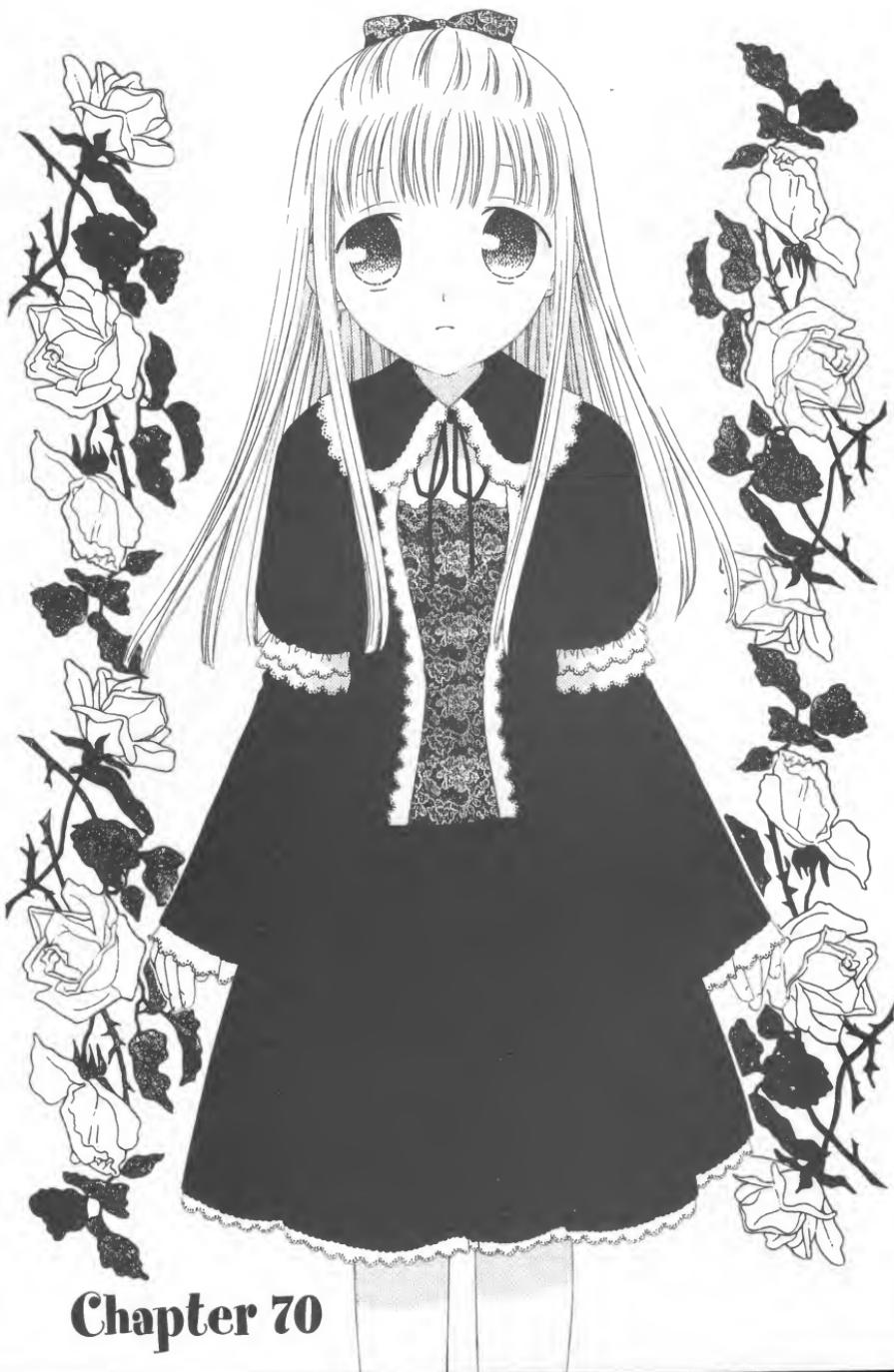
COME ON,  
NOW. HE'S  
NOT AS BAD  
AS THAT.



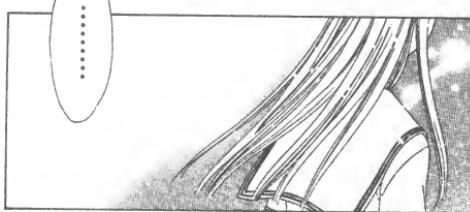
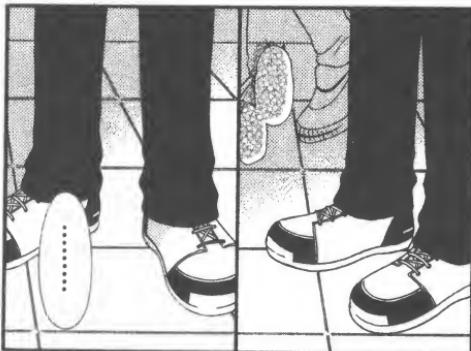
...RIN.

IT'S NOT  
NICE...

...TO CALL  
PEOPLE  
PIECES OF  
SHIT...



## Chapter 70





...VISIT  
SENSEI'S  
HOUSE.

I CAME  
TO...



WHAT  
ARE  
YOU...



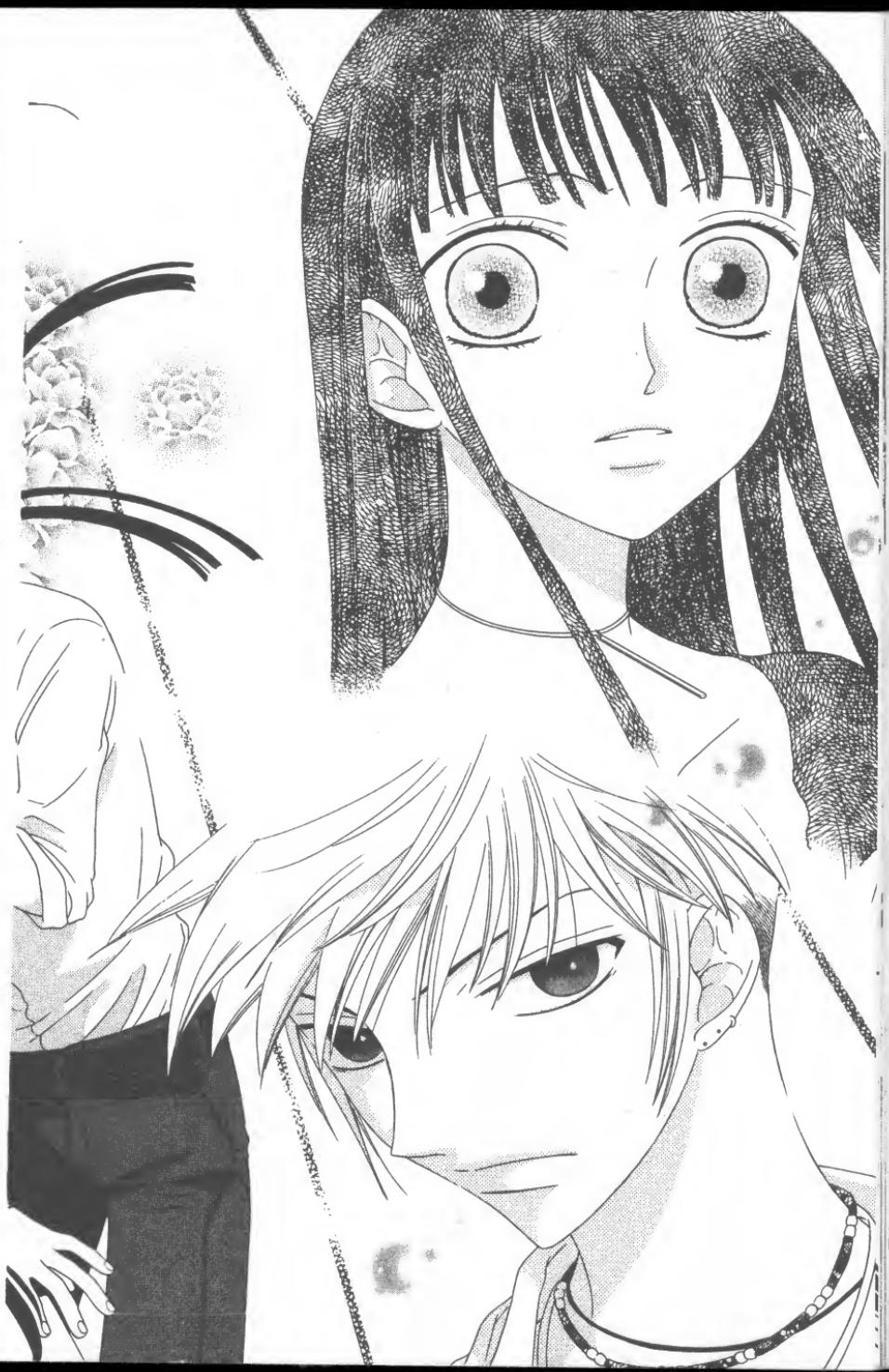
...DOING  
HERE...?



...HARU?













SLAP

RIN,  
ARE YOU STILL...

...LIKE  
ON THAT  
DAY...

...UNABLE TO  
STAND...

...ON YOUR  
OWN?

R

...

!



HARU...  
ARE YOU  
SURE...

...YOU DON'T  
WANT TO  
FOLLOW  
HER?

NN...?



...CRYING  
SO MUCH...



2-D  
iendfrays



It sounds like a name for a comedy duo... When I started drawing students in the background of school scenes, before I knew it, this miracle pair became the main classmates. But they don't have names. (They're all like that.)

I get a lot of letters saying, "Tohru's class really gets along," and I think, "Yup! They really do." If it's a classroom that seems to welcome people with open arms, it's not scary to enter it.













...ON MY  
OWN.



I CAN'T  
STAND UP...

OH...

YOU WENT  
TO ALL THE  
TROUBLE TO  
COME SEE  
ME?

THAT  
MAKES THIS  
OLD MAN  
VERY HAPPY.  
THANK YOU.

I'M ALL RIGHT.  
EXCEPT FOR  
MY BACK, I'M  
DOING WELL.

HOW ARE  
YOU FEELING,  
GRANDPA...?

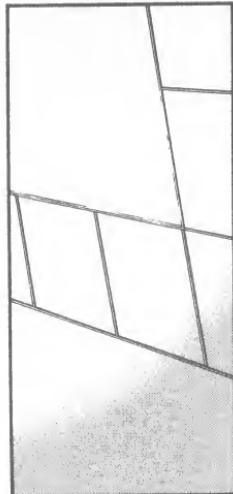
WILL YOU  
BE ALL RIGHT  
WITH THE  
PARENT-TEACHER  
CONFERENCE?

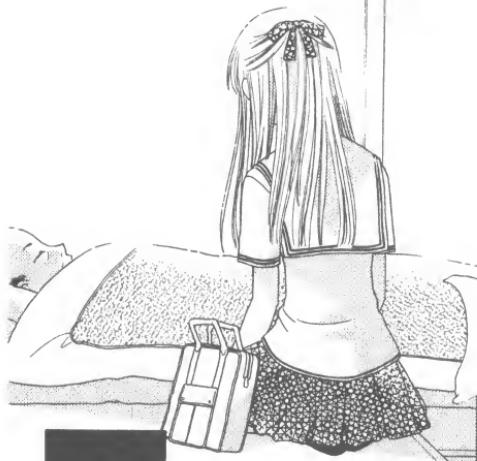
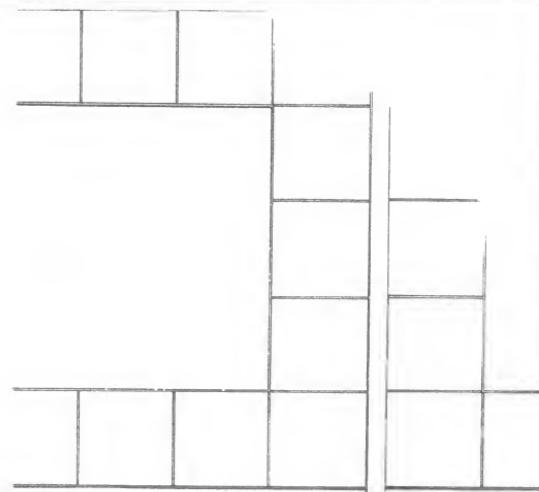
ALL I DO  
IS SLEEP.  
I FEEL LIKE  
I'M GOING TO  
MELT.

AH  
HA  
HA!

YES!  
IT'S ALL  
WORKED  
OUT!



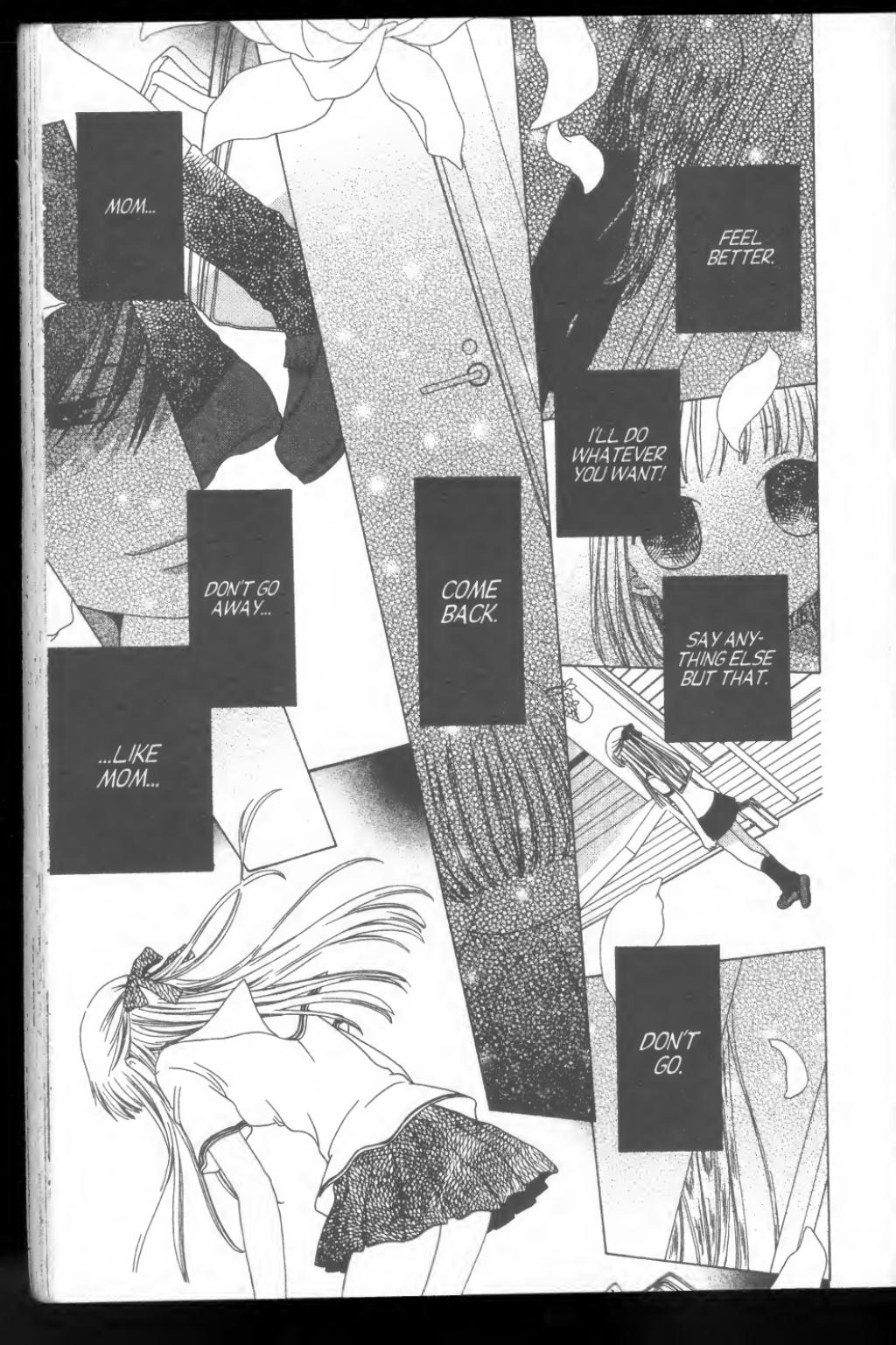




DON'T SAY...

"I WANT  
TO GO SEE  
HIM."





MOM...

...LIKE  
MOM...

DON'T GO  
AWAY...

COME  
BACK.

I'LL DO  
WHATEVER  
YOU WANT!

SAY ANY-  
THING ELSE  
BUT THAT.

DON'T  
GO.

FEEL  
BETTER.



WHAT'S  
WRONG?

WAS  
HE...

...IN BAD  
SHAPE?





I THOUGHT  
MAYBE...  
YOU HAD  
DESCENDED  
FROM THE  
HEAVENS...

...SURPRISED  
ME, KYO-KUN.

YOU...



DON'T PUSH  
YOURSELF.

JUST...

IT'S  
NATURAL TO  
BE ANXIOUS  
WHEN A  
RELATIVE'S  
BEDRIDDEN.



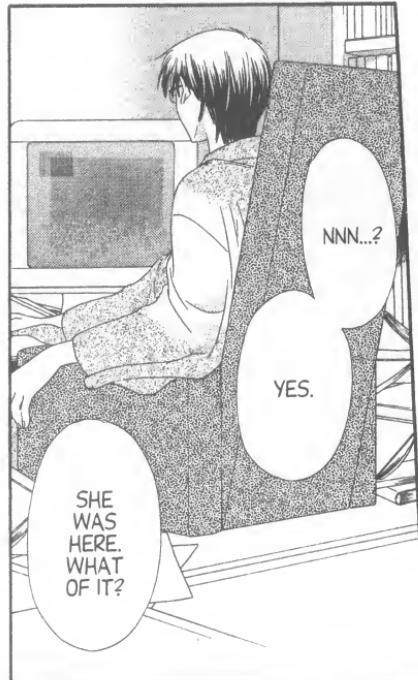
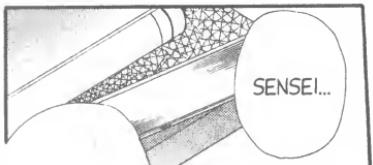
ARE YOU  
STUPID?

Huh?  
WHAT ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?









I KNOW.

HA  
HA!

WHY DO YOU  
ALWAYS TALK  
AS IF YOU'RE  
TESTING  
PEOPLE?

IT MAKES  
PEOPLE NOT  
LIKE YOU,  
YOU KNOW.

...WHEN IF  
YOU'D JUST  
RELAX, YOU'D  
FIND OUT  
THAT YOU  
FLOAT.

YOU ALWAYS  
STRUGGLE  
FRANTICALLY  
TO KEEP YOUR-  
SELF FROM  
DROWNING...

YOU ALL  
ARE SO  
LUCKY...

...TO LIVE  
IN THE  
IGNORANCE  
OF YOUTH.

...UNTIL  
YOU CAN'T  
STRUGGLE  
ANYMORE.

...IS TO KEEP  
STRUGGLING  
WITH ALL  
YOUR MIGHT...

YES, BUT  
THE ONLY  
WAY TO GET  
TO THAT  
POINT...





THAT'S  
YOUR JOB  
AS YOUNG  
PEOPLE,  
ISN'T IT?

PLEASE, DO  
YOUR BEST.

KEEP  
STRUGGLING.



Chapter 71

# I feel so grateful!



Harada-sama, Araki-sama,  
Mother, Father and everyone  
who reads and supports this  
manga, thank you so much  
for your support!

Next is the one about whom I've gotten  
letters asking, "Is she the character in  
charge of sexiness?" Yup. It's Rin.

-Natsuki Takaya









I...

I'LL DO MY  
BEST TO NOT  
STAY OUT  
OF IT!!

STAY  
OUT OF  
IT.

...HUH?

ANY-  
WAY...

THE  
PARENT-  
TEACHER  
CONFERENCES  
HAVE BEGIN!!

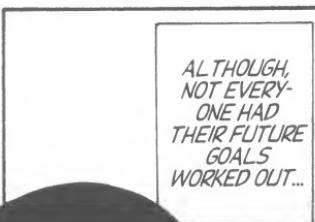
SO... SO,  
YUKI-KUN...

...PLEASE...  
DO YOUR  
BEST.

THE  
PARENT-  
TEACHER  
CONFERENCES  
ARE FOR  
YOU TO...

...THINK  
ABOUT YOUR  
OWN PATH...  
YOUR OWN  
FUTURE.

I WON'T BE  
AFRAID.



Squeee!

...WE  
WILL BE  
GRADUATING.

IN JUST  
OVER A  
YEAR FROM  
NOW...

DID YOU  
SEE?!

IS HE  
REALLY HER  
FATHER?!

MAYU-  
CHAN-SENSEI  
MIGHT FALL  
IN LOVE WITH  
HIM!!

I SAW, I SAW!!  
WHO IS THAT  
GOOD-LOOKING  
MAN!?!?

Kya  
ha!

He  
could  
be her  
brother.

squeee!!

Tee  
hee!

Where  
are you  
looking  
with that  
far-off  
gaze?!

HANG IN  
THERE,  
SAKI-  
CHAN!!

I WONDER...  
IF I COULD...  
GRADUATE...

THAT  
DEPENDS ON  
HOW MUCH  
WORK YOU  
PUT INTO IT,  
HANAJIMA...

Shhhh!  
They'll  
hear us!

...







...WAS  
THE LAST  
PROMISE  
I WAS ABLE  
TO MAKE...

AFTER YOU  
GRADUATE...

...YOU'RE  
PLANNING  
TO LEAVE  
SOHMA-  
SAN'S  
HOUSE,  
RIGHT?

...TO  
MOM.

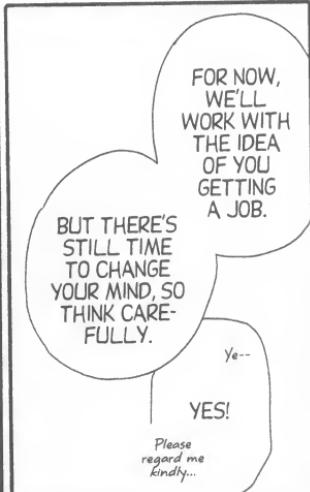
I WANT TO  
WORK...

...ONCE I'VE  
SAFELY  
GRADUATED  
HIGH SCHOOL.

AFTER  
ALL...

THAT...







A story for  
here alone.

I got a letter  
saying, "We miss  
hearing about  
your life!"

So...a short  
return. I'm  
sorry, but really,  
not much has  
changed. I work,  
play video games,  
sometimes go to  
see plays or  
movies, get sick,  
go back to work...  
this is my life.

Oh yeah...When  
I was playing  
games earlier,  
and tried  
wearing head-  
phones, I was  
really surprised.  
There were  
sounds I had  
never heard  
before! I guess  
my TV just has  
really bad  
speakers. I was  
so shocked that  
I dug out some  
of my old games  
and tried playing  
all of them again  
with headphones.  
There were so  
many sounds  
I didn't know  
about! (sob)

...Such is my life.

"DON'T TAKE  
ON TOO MANY  
BURDENS,  
OKAY?"

COME TO  
THINK OF  
IT...

...HOW DID  
SHIGURE-SAN  
KNOW THAT  
SENSEI IS  
SINGLE?

I'M A  
LITTLE...  
ANXIOUS.

I can't  
hear  
any-  
thing.  
Seriously?  
They're  
alone?!

I WONDER  
WHAT SHE  
MEANT BY  
THAT?

I DON'T...

...REALLY  
UNDER-  
STAND.

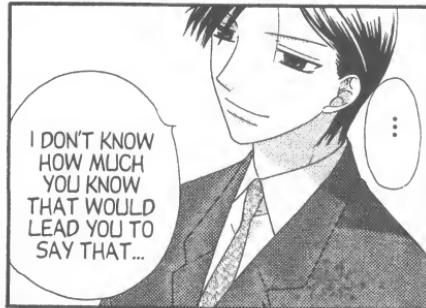




"SOMETHING  
REALLY DID  
HAPPEN  
AT THE  
SUMMER  
HOUSE,  
DIDN'T IT?"

...ON HER  
CHEEK."

...WAS  
HURT...



...THAN I'VE  
GIVEN ANYONE  
ELSE BEFORE.

...I'M  
HANDLING  
TOHRU WITH  
CLOSER  
CARE...

...LIKE SCRAP  
PAPER...

EVEN  
THOUGH  
IT MIGHT  
NOT SEEM  
LIKE IT...

WITH MY  
PERSONALITY,  
YOU'D BE A FOOL  
TO EXPECT ANY  
MORE.

WHATEVER  
COULD YOU  
MEAN?

HA  
HA!

THAT  
DOESN'T  
MEAN  
MUCH...

...COMING  
FROM YOU.

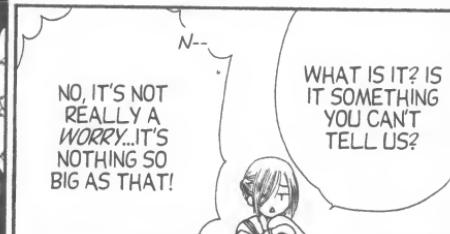
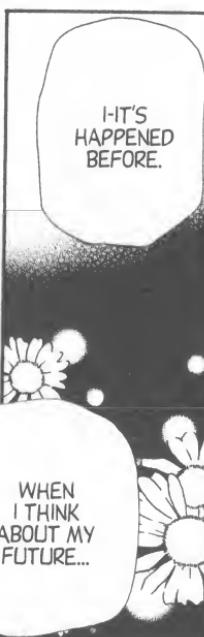
BESIDES,  
THAT'S NOT  
EVEN MY JOB,  
IS IT?

THAT'S  
LOW, EVEN  
COMING  
FROM YOU.

YOU DON'T  
EVEN TREAT  
THE PEOPLE  
YOU CLAIM TO  
LIKE AS HUMAN  
BEINGS.







DOESN'T  
EVERY-  
BODY?



EVEN I GET  
ANXIOUS.

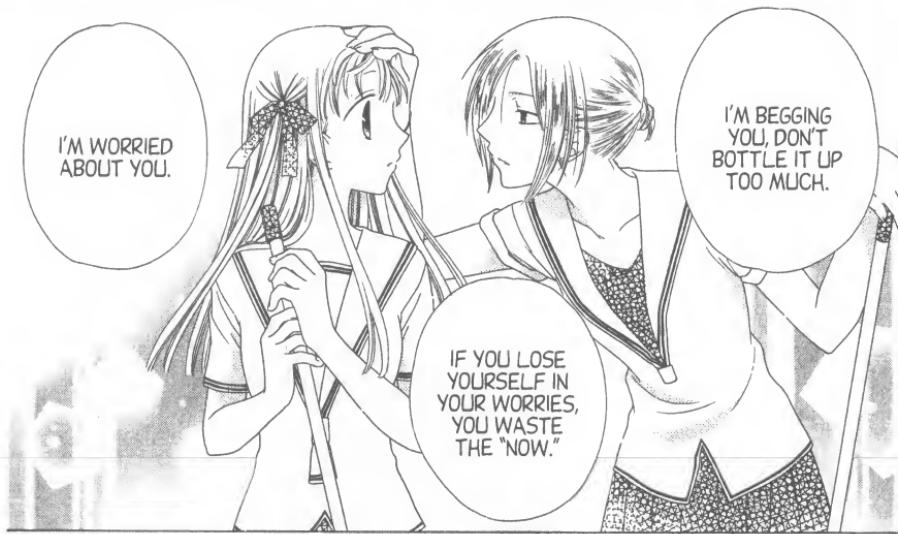
LIKE I GET  
THIS JITTERY  
FEELING DOWN  
MY BACK, YOU  
KNOW?

AND MY  
DAD TELLS ME  
I NEED TO THINK  
ABOUT IT "MORE  
SERIOUSLY."

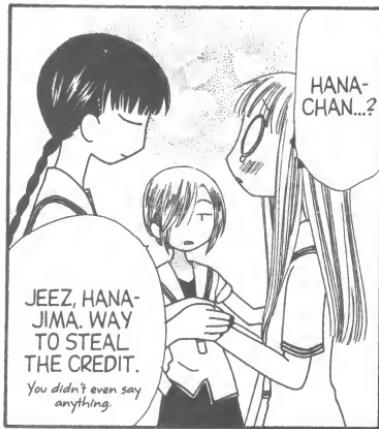
You know...

NO, IT'S  
NOT AS  
SIMPLE  
AS THAT.

THE  
TRUTH  
LIES  
MUCH  
DEEPER.

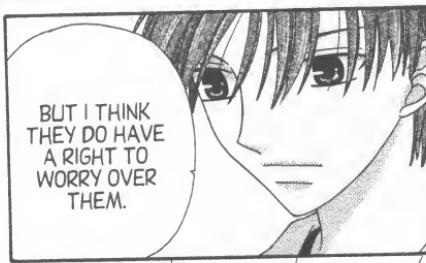


















NOT UNTIL THE DAY I GRADUATE.

To Be Continued in Volume 13...

Next time in...

# Fruits Basket™



13

Natsuki Takaya

## **Yuki Takes a Stand...**

The time for Yuki's parent-teacher conference has finally arrived, and Yuki's mother has already decided his future for him, because apparently Yuki can't decide for himself. While Yuki struggles to get a word in, Ayame shows up and ruffles many a feather. Meanwhile, Tohru goes on a quest to find out if Kureno Sohma is *the* Kureno that Arisa has been in love with all this time. Along the way, Tohru meets Momo--Momiji's little sister, who is tragically not allowed to talk with her big brother. Later, while on a class trip to Kyoto, a girl confesses to Kyo that she's in love with him! How will Kyo react? More importantly, how will Tohru feel about this?

**Fruits Basket Volume 13**

Available April 2006